

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L BRASILIA 10498

FOL FROM SAO PAULO SENT BRASILIA RIO DE JANEIRO DEC 23:

QUOTE

SAO PAUL 2951

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SHUM, PINT, BR
SUBJ: HUMAN RIGHTS AND OPPOSITION GROUPS PLAN TO ISSUE

SUMMARY: A COALITION OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND OPPOSITION GROUPS PLANS
TO ISSUE A MANIFESTO CRITICISING THE GOVERNMENT'S METHODS IN
CAPTURING COMMUNIST PARTY OF BRAZIL MEMBERS (PC DO B). THE
DOCUMENT WILL ALSO RAISE QUESTIONS ABOUT THE WAY IN WHICH JOAO BAPTIS
TA
DRUMOND DIED. THE IMMEDIATE GOAL OF THE MANIFESTO IS TO ATTEMPT
TO FORCE THE GOVERNMENT TO RELEASE OFFICIALLY THE NAMES OF THE
DETAINEES SO THAT PUBLIC PRESSURE CAN BE BROUGHT TO BEAR ON THEIR
TREATMENT. BUT IT WILL ALSO HAVE THE EFFECT OF RAISING PUBLICLY
QUESTIONS ABOUT DRUMOND'S DEATH WHILE UNDERGOING ARMY QUESTIONING,
AND THE REGIME'S CONTROL OVER ITS SECURITY APPARATUS.

1. A COALITION OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND OPPOSITION
GROUPS PLANS TO ISSUE A "MANIFESTO" CRITICISING THE WAY IN
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WHICH THE GOVERNMENT HAS HANDLED THE CAPTURE AND DETENTION OF
COMMUNIST PARTY OF BRAZIL (PC DO B) MEMBERS. THE MANIFESTO REPORTED-
LY WILL ALSO RAISE QUESTIONS ABOUT THE WAY IN WHICH JOAO BAPTISTA
FRANCO DRUMOND DIED. THE COALITION IS COMPOSED OF THE COMMISSION
ON JUSTICE AND PEACE, WHICH OPERATES UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE
ARCHDIOCESE OF SAO PAULO, THE BRAZILIAN PRESS ASSOCIATION

(ABI), THE BRAZILIAN BAR ASSOCIATION (OAB), AND LAWYERS FOR THE DETAINEES. THE PRESIDENT OF THE COMMISSION ON JUSTICE AND PEACE, PROF. DALMO DALLARI, TOLD POL OFF THAT THE COMMISSION WAS RELUCTANT TO TAKE THE LEAD IN INVESTIGATING THE HUMAN RIGHTS ASPECTS OF THE PC DO B CASE SINCE THE CHURCH ALREADY HAS ENOUGH PROBLEMS WITH THE GOVERNMENT. HOWEVER, ACCORDING TO FEDERAL DEPUTY AIRTON SOARES, WHOSE FIRM REPRESENTS THREE OF THE DETAINEES, CARDINAL ARNS IS WILLING TO PRESS FOR PUBLICATION OF THE MANIFESTO AS LONG AS THERE IS BROAD SUPPORT FOR IT. SOARES SAID THAT THE OAB IS THE ONLY GROUP WHICH HAS NOT YET APPROVED THE TEXT. THE IMMEDIATE GOAL OF THE MANIFESTO IS TO FORCE THE ARMY TO REVEAL OFFICIALLY THE NAMES OF THOSE PERSONS DETAINED SO THAT OUTSIDE PRESSURE CAN BE BROUGHT TO BEAR ON THEIR TREATMENT.

2. SOARES BELIEVES THAT THE FOLLOWING PERSONS WERE ARRESTED: MAURICIO GRABOIS, THE SON OF THE FORMER PC DO B LEADER WHO WAS KILLED IN 1972; FOAO AMAZONAS, FORMER DEPUTY AND ONE TO TOP PC DO B LEADERS; DR. JOAO RENATO RABELLO PC DO B LEADER IN BAHIA; ALSO SILVA ARANTES; MAURICIO (LNU), A STUDENT LEADER. O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO NOTED THE ARREST OF AL DO SILVA ARANTES ON DECEMBER 18, BECAUSE HIS LAWYERS SENT A NOTE TO MILITARY COURT ON DECEMBER 17 INQUIRING WHETHER HIS DETENTION WAS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE LAW, WHETHER HE WAS RECEIVING MEDICATION (ARANTES IS EPILEPTIC) AND DEMANDING TO SEE HIM. NEITHER THE MILITARY NOR THE POLICE HAVE RESPONDED TO THE REQUEST NOR WILL EITHER TALK TO THE LAWYERS. O ESTADO PUBLISHED ON DECEMBER 23 THE NAMES OF THREE ADDITIONAL PERSONS REPORTEDLY UNDER ARREST. THEY ARE: DUARTE PACHECO LAGO PEREIRA, FOUNDER OF POPULAR ACTION (AP) IN 1962; ELZA MONERAT; AND HAROLDO RODRIGUES LIMA, A LEADER OF THE PC DO B IN SAO PAULO. LIMA, HOWEVER, IS ALSO REPORTED "MISSING" BY SECURITY OFFICIALS. CONFIDENTIAL

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SOARES STATED THAT HE IS THE SOURCE OF THE O ESTADO REPORT.

3. SOARES STATED THAT WHEN THE PC DO B DETAINEES WERE TAKEN TO SECOND ARMY HEADQUARTERS, GEN. DILERMANDO GOMES MONTEIRO, WARY OF INVOLVEMENT IN A DIFFICULT HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTION, REFUSED TO ALLOW THEM TO BE DETAINED UNDER HIS COMMAND. PC DO B MEMBERS WERE THEN TAKEN TO THE POLICE, WHERE SOME REPORTEDLY STILL DETAINED. OTHERS WERE REPORTEDLY TAKEN TO RIO AND ARE BEING HELD BY THE ARMY THERE. SOARES STATED THAT HE BELIEVES THAT PC DO B DETAINEES ARE BEING HELD IN PETROPOLIS UNDER THE COMMAND OF A COL. MACIEL, WHO SOARES DESCRIBED A VERY HARDLINE. (COL. MACIEL WAS TRANSFERRED FROM SECOND ARMY DOI WHEN GEN. D'AVILA WAS REMOVED FOR PERMITTING HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES.)

COMMENT: FEW PEOPLE ARE WILLING TO RISK THEIR REPUTATIONS TO DEFEND THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF MEMBERS OF THE CHINESE LINE COMMUNIST PARTY. THUS THE EXTREME CAUTION IN OBTAINING THE BROADEST GROUP POSSIBLE FOR THE MANIFESTO. A SECOND FACTOR WHICH HAS CAUSED SOME HESITATION

AMONG HUMAN RIGHTS ADVOCATES IN SAO PAULO IS THE EXCELLENT RECORD OF SECOND ARMY COMMANDER DILERMANDO GOMES MONTEIRO IN HIS HANDLING OF SUBVERSION CASES. IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT TO PRESS VIGOROUSLY THE HUMAN RIGHTS ASPECT OF THE PC DO B CASE WITHOUT HARMING DILERMANDO'S REPUTATION. HUMAN RIGHTS ADVOCATES ALSO RECOGNIZE THAT THEIR ACTION MAY TEND TO POLARIZE THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN SAO PAULO, WHICH HAS IMPROVED IMMENSELY IN THE PAST YEAR. HOWEVER, THEY FEEL THAT THEY MUST USE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO ATTEMPT TO HOLD THE GOVERNMENT TO LEGAL PRACTICES EVEN THOUGH THERE MAY BE SOME NEGATIVE SIDE EFFECTS. SIGNED CHAPIN

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